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# STATED MEETING, August 9, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

## DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Sixty-four Species of Plants from the Andes, collected and presented by J. Frampton Watson, Esq.

Portions of a Human Skeleton, discovered and brought from the Ruins of San Francisco, near Ticol, nineteen leagues from Merida, Yucatan, by Mr. J. L. Stephens, and deposited in the Academy by Dr. Morton.

Bones of the Raccoon, Deer, Bat, and a single vertebra of a minute Fish, from a Cave on the Condogwinit, near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. From Dr. Wm. T. Craige.

A specimen, in spirits, of *Uranoscopus* ———, from the mouth of Great Egg Harbor River. From Mr. Ashmead.

The Botanical Committee announced the reception of Mr. Browne's collection of West Indian Plants, Fruits, &c., accompanied by a Catalogue, in which the name of each species is given under the head of the natural family to which it belongs, with short statements of its localities, peculiarities and uses.

The whole collection contains of dried plants 300 species; of fruits, seed vessels, and seeds, about 55 varieties; and of woods, 73 varieties; some of which latter are polished.

## DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

*Saggio Storico dei Rizopodi Caratteristici dei Terreni Sopracretacei.* Par Giovanni Michelotti. Modena, 1841. From the Author.

*Monografia del genere Murex, ossia enumerazione delle*

- principali specie dei Sopracretacei dell' Italia. Per Giovanni Michelotti. Vicenza, 1841. 4to. From the Author.
- Description des Cancellaires Fossiles des Terraines Tertiaires du Piémont. Par Louis Bellardi. Turin, 1841. From the Author.
- Annales des Mines. Tome XX. V<sup>e</sup>. Livn. de 1841. From the Society.
- Histoire Naturelle &c. de l' Ile de Cuba. Par M. Ramond de la Sagra. Liv. 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37. Presented by J. Price Wetherill, J. S. Phillips, S. G. Morton, A. L. Elwyn, W. S. Vaux, Jos. A. Clay, and Geo. C. Leib.

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

The Chairman read a letter from M. Jean Michelotti, dated Turin, March 24, 1842, accompanying the donation of his works.

Also a letter from M. Louis Bellardi, dated March 25, 1842, in reference to the presentation of his work.

And a note from Peter A. Browne, Esq., introductory to his Catalogue of West Indian Plants, &c.

#### VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Dr. Morton laid on the table the remains of a human skeleton found by Mr. J. L. Stevens in a vault or tomb at the ruins near Ticul, nineteen leagues from Merida, in Yucatan. Dr. M. remarked that these bones have pertained to a female, whose stature has not exceeded five feet three inches, at the same time that the absence of *epiphyses* and consequent consolidation of the bones are proofs of adult age. From the appearance of the teeth, however, which are fresh, and not sensibly worn, and a line or furrow marking off the crista of the ilium, it is presumed that this individual had not passed her twentieth year. The bones of the head, which are still partially separable at the sutures, are admirably characteristic of the *American Race*, as seen in the vertical occiput and the great inter-parietal diameter, which measures five inches and eight-tenths. The head is of full size, in proportion to the rest of the skeleton, of which the bones are of very delicate proportions, especially those of the feet and hands. An interesting feature of this skeleton is, the occurrence of a large spongy *node* on the upper and inner surface of the left tibia, on which it extends about two inches in length, one inch in breadth, and half an inch in thickness. Dr. Bridges having subjected some fragments of these bones to the usual chemical tests, found them in a very

great degree deprived of animal matter—an additional evidence of their antiquity.

Dr. Morton also exhibited parts of four other skeletons, obtained also in Yucatan, by Mr. Benjamin A. Norman, during a recent sojourn in that country. They were found in mounds near the sea-coast; but on a closer examination, it was ascertained by that gentleman that these mounds had been pyramids of mason work, which, by gradual disintegration, and subsequent deposits of vegetable matter, had been reduced to the low, conical, or mound-like form. One of these skeletons is that of a man of perhaps five and twenty years of age; the bones, which are chiefly those of the extremities, are large, and indicate a person of full stature. The few remaining cranial bones are large and massive, which remark also applies to both maxillæ, in which the teeth are remarkably perfect. The os calcis and other bones of the foot are of delicate proportions. Parts of a second skeleton from the same mound are smaller, but so few, and so much broken, as to prevent any certain indications of age or sex.

Of the two remaining skeletons, only a few fragments of long bones and others of the hands and feet remain. These are much larger than those already described, and have probably pertained to men of large stature. No remains of cranial bones were found among them. These fragments were not tested for the animal matter they may contain; but judging from their extreme disintegration, it must have almost wholly disappeared.

Mr. Gliddon remarked, on the authority of Mr. Stephens, that an examination of the sepulchre, and of the mode in which these remains had been interred, totally disproved any idea of their being of Egyptian origin or character.

#### BUSINESS BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION.

On motion of Dr. Morton, Resolved, That the Catalogue accompanying Mr. P. A. Browne's donation of West Indian plants, &c., be bound, and deposited in the Library of the Academy.